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Conference

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Abstract Title

Family support, discrimination and quality of life among ART patients in Guangxi, China

Key words

ART, quality of life, family support, discrimination, cohort

Abstract Text

Background

By December 2007, approximately 5,000 patients were receiving ART in Guangxi, China. However, limited studies on the effect of family support and discrimination on patients' quality of life (QoL) have been conducted.

Methods

With funding support from USAID/PEPFAR, a cohort study on QoL among adult ART patients in Guangxi was conducted using a survey at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months. Single factor analysis using Generalized Estimating Equations (GEE) assessed relationships between family support, discrimination and QoL.

Results

90.4% (n=281) of patients received family support at baseline, 91.8% (n=244) at 6 months, 95.5% (n=220) at 12 months, and 94.3% (n=230) at 24 months. The proportion of patients who did not feel discriminated against by their families was 87.2% (n=274) at baseline, 90.4% (n=229) at 6 months, 90.0% (n=210) at 12 months, and 94.5% (n=219) at 24 months. Patients' overall QoL scores were positively associated with both: having received family support (OR=2.6, $p<0.01$) and not feeling discriminated against by their families (OR=3.4, $p<0.01$).

Conclusions

High levels of family support were found among the ART patients. Increased family support and non-discrimination can enhance patients' quality of life.